

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01633 130036Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AGR-05 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 /071 W

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R 121653Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6347

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PINT, PO

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL ACCUSED OF INCITING VIOLENCE

SUMMARY: ALLEGED STATEMENT BY COMMUNIST AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL
INCITING FARMERS TO VIOLENCE IS HAVING MAJOR REPERCUSSIONS.
FALLOUT MAY DAMAGE BOTH PCP AND AG MINISTER LOPES CARDOSO,
A LEFT WING SOCIALIST. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DIRECTOR OF THE REGIONAL AGRARIAN REFORM CENTER (CRRRA)
AT EVORA HAD PRESENTED HIS RESIGNATION BECAUSE OF QUOTE PARTISAN
AND INTOLERABLE BEHAVIOR UNQUOTE OF THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY'S
COMMUNIST SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AGRARIAN RESTRUCTURING,
VITOR LOURO. AFTER LISTENING MARCH 5 TO COMPLAINTS OF 200
CRRRA WORKERS, LOURO BEGAN A LECTURE IN WHICH HE IS REPORTED
TO HAVE SAID QUOTE, IF NECESSARY, TAKE UP ARMS; THIS REVOLU-
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PAGE 02 LISBON 01633 130036Z

TION CAN GO ON ONLY WITH BLOOD; IF CATARINA EUFEMIA (COMMUNIST

MARTYR) FELL, THERE IS NO GREAT DAMAGE IN KNOCKING OVER SOME BIG LANDOWNERS UNQUOTE.

2. LOURO, WHOM PCP NAMED TO REPLACE CONTROVERSIAL ANTONIO BICA FOLLOWING CABINET AND SUB-CABINET RESHUFFLE IN JANUARY, HAS NOT BEEN IN LIMELIGHT TO THIS TIME. LOURO HAS SINCE DENIED MAKING THE REMARKS, BUT THE MINISTER'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT ADMITTED TO THE AGATT MARCH 11 THAT LOURO WAS GUILTY OF QUOTE IMPRUDENT UNQUOTE STATEMENTS AT EVORA. LOURO HAS THREATENED TO SUE THE NEWSPAPERS CARRYING THE ALLEGATIONS.

3. COMMENT: THIS INCIDENT WILL HURT THE PCP IN THE STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST AGRICULTURAL AREAS OF NORTH AND CENTRAL PORTUGAL. AT THE SAME TIME IT WILL DAMAGE AGRICULTURE MINISTER LOPES CARDOSO, A LEFT WING SOCIALIST, WHOSE MINISTRY WILL GET SMEARED WITH THE SAME BRUSH. LISBON NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING PRO-SOCIALIST "A LUTA", DID NOT MENTION LOURO'S PARTY AFFILIATION. THIS MAKES IT MORE LIKELY THAT THE AVERAGE VOTER WILL BE UNABLE TO SEPARATE LOPES CARDOSO FROM HIS SECRETARY OF STATE.

4. IN RECENT WEEKS THE CONSERVATIVE PORTUGUESE FARMERS CONFEDERATION HAS KEPT LOPES CARDOSO UNDER STEADY FIRE, ACCUSING HIM OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAND EXPROPRIATIONS AND COLLECTIVE FARMS.
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TAGS: EAGR, PINT, PO, (LOURO, VITOR)
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